Claims 4, 14, and 38 were previously canceled.

Claims 1, 11, 20, 25, 34, 41, 44, 52 and 55 are currently amended.

Claims 1-3, 5-13, 15-37, and 39-57 are pending and are listed as follows:

1.   (Currently Amended) A viewing management method for managing viewing of multiple live electronic presentations, comprising:

simultaneously monitoring two or more electronic presentations that are concurrently broadcast, wherein said monitoring comprises monitoring data that does not comprise content that can be presented to a viewer; and

automatically switching <u>back and forth</u> between displays of the two or more electronic presentations based upon viewer-defined preferences, wherein the viewer-defined preferences are defined in terms of events that can occur within electronic presentations, wherein at least some of said events describe some activity or action that can take place within the electronic presentation itself.

2.   (Original) The viewing management method of claim 1, wherein the viewer-defined preferences are defined in terms of specific electronic presentation titles.

3.   (Original) The viewing management method of claim 1, wherein the viewer-defined preferences are defined in terms of topics that can occur within electronic presentations.

4.   (Canceled)

5.   (Original) The viewing management method of claim 1, wherein the viewer defined preferences are defined in terms of at least one of:

specific electronic presentation titles;

topics that can occur within electronic presentations; and

events that can occur within electronic presentations.

6.   (Original) The viewing management method of claim 1, wherein the viewer-defined preferences are defined in terms of priorities that can be assigned to the two or more electronic presentations.

7.   (Original) The viewing management method of claim 1, wherein the viewer-defined preferences are defined in terms of priorities that can be assigned to events that can occur within the two or more electronic presentations.

8.   (Original) The viewing management method of claim 1, wherein said automatically switching comprises enabling a picture-in-

picture (PIP) display for the viewer in which at least two of the electronic presentations are contemporaneously displayed for the viewer.

9.   (Original) One or more computers programmed with instructions which, when executed by the one or more computers, cause the one or more computers to perform the method of claim 1.

10.   (Original) One or more computer-readable media having computer-readable instructions thereon which, when executed by a computer, implement the method of claim 1.

11.   (Currently Amended) A viewing management method for managing viewing of multiple live electronic presentations, comprising:

simultaneously monitoring two or more electronic presentations that are concurrently broadcast, wherein said monitoring comprises monitoring data that does not comprise content that can be presented to a viewer; and

automatically notifying a viewer when one or more of the electronic presentations satisfies a viewer-defined preference, wherein viewer-defined preferences can be defined in terms of events that can occur within electronic presentations, wherein at least some of said events describe some activity or action that can take place within the electronic presentation itself and wherein an activity or action can pertain to a character or person in at least one of said two or more electronic presentations.

12. (Original) The viewing method of claim 11, wherein the viewer-defined preferences are defined in terms of specific electronic presentation titles.

13. (Original) The viewing method of claim 11, wherein the viewer-defined preferences are defined in terms of topics that can occur within electronic presentations.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Original) The viewing method of claim 11, wherein the viewer-defined preferences are defined in terms of at least one of:
   specific electronic presentation titles;
   topics that can occur within electronic presentations; and
   events that can occur within electronic presentations.

16. (Original) The viewing method of claim 11, wherein the viewer-defined preferences are defined in terms of priorities that can be assigned to the two or more electronic presentations.

17. (Original) The viewing method of claim 11, wherein the viewer-defined preferences are defined in terms of priorities that can be assigned to events that can occur within the two or more electronic presentations.

18. (Original) The viewing method of claim 11, wherein said automatically notifying comprises enabling a picture-in-picture (PIP) display for the viewer in which at least two of the electronic presentations are contemporaneously displayed for the viewer.

19. (Original) One or more computers programmed with instructions which, when executed by the one or more computers, cause the one or more computers to perform the method of claim 11.

20. (Currently Amended) One or more programmable computers having instructions which, when executed by the one or more computers implement a viewing management method for managing viewing of multiple live electronic presentations comprising:

sending at least one viewer request to an encoder, the viewer request containing one or more viewer-defined preferences that relate to one or more events that can occur in one or more electronic presentations, wherein at least some of said events describe some activity or action that can take place within the electronic presentation itself and wherein an activity or action can pertain to a character or person in at least one of said one or more electronic presentations;

evaluating, with the encoder, one or more electronic presentations that are being broadcast to determine whether any of the viewer-defined preferences are satisfied, wherein said evaluating comprises at least

monitoring data that does not comprise content that can be presented to a viewer; and

if a viewer-defined preference is satisfied by one or more of the electronic presentations, notifying a viewer that is associated with the viewer-defined preference that was satisfied.

21.   (Original) The one or more programmable computers of claim 20, wherein said notifying comprises automatically displaying the electronic presentation that satisfied the viewer-defined preference.

22.   (Original) The one or more programmable computers of claim 20, wherein said notifying comprises displaying indicia for the viewer that is associated with the viewer-defined preference that was satisfied.

23.   (Original) The one or more programmable computers of claim 20, wherein said viewing management method further comprises prior to said sending:

receiving viewer requests with a server, the viewer requests originating from a plurality of different viewers; and

maintaining at least a list of viewers and their viewer-defined preferences in the server,

said sending comprising sending the viewer requests from the server to the encoder.

24. (Original) The one or more programmable computers of claim 23, wherein said notifying comprises:

sending a notification from the encoder to the server;

receiving the notification sent from the encoder; and

sending a notification from the server to the viewer.

25. (Currently Amended) A viewing management method for managing viewing of multiple live electronic presentations, comprising:

receiving one or more viewer requests from one or more viewers, the viewer requests containing viewer-defined preferences that are to be used to evaluate a plurality of different live electronic presentations;

evaluating a plurality of live electronic presentations using the viewer-defined preferences, wherein the viewer-defined preferences are defined in terms of events that can occur within electronic presentations, wherein at least some of said events describe some activity or action that can take place within the electronic presentation itself and wherein said evaluating comprises at least monitoring data that does not comprise content that can be presented to a viewer, and wherein an activity or action can pertain to a character or person in at least one of said electronic presentations; and

in the event that one or more of the viewer-defined preferences is satisfied, notifying at least one viewer that is associated with the viewer-defined preference that is satisfied.

26.   (Original) The viewing management method of claim 25, wherein said notifying comprises automatically displaying the electronic presentation that is associated with the viewer-defined preference that is satisfied.

27.   (Original) The viewing management method of claim 25, wherein said notifying comprises displaying indicia of the electronic presentation that is associated with the viewer-defined preference that is satisfied.

28.   (Original) The viewing management method of claim 25, wherein said notifying comprises enabling a picture-in-picture (PIP) display for a viewer in which at least two electronic presentations are contemporaneously displayed for the viewer, one of the electronic presentations comprising one which is associated with the viewer-defined preference that is satisfied.

29.   (Original) The viewing management method of claim 25, wherein said receiving is performed by a server that is programmed to receive the viewer requests and notify the viewers.

30.   (Original) The viewing management method of claim 25, wherein said receiving is performed by a server that is programmed to receive the viewer requests, evaluate the live electronic presentations, and notify the viewers.

31.   (Original) The viewing management method of claim 25, wherein said evaluating comprises:

receiving information describing the electronic presentations as they are being broadcast;

receiving updated information describing the electronic presentations as they are being broadcast; and

evaluating all of the information that is received in light of the viewer-defined preferences.

32.   (Original) One or more computers programmed with instructions which, when executed by the one or more computers, cause the one or more computers to implement the method of claim 25.

33.   (Original) One or more computer-readable media having computer-readable instructions thereon which, when executed by a computer, implement the method of claim 25.

34.   (Currently Amended) A viewing management method for managing viewing of multiple live electronic presentations, comprising:

creating a viewer request that contains one or more viewer-defined preferences for use in evaluating one or more live electronic presentations;

sending the viewer request to one or more computing devices; and

evaluating one or more electronic presentations with the one or more computing devices in light of the one or more viewer-defined

preferences, wherein the viewer-defined preferences can be defined in terms of events that can occur in electronic presentations, wherein at least some of said events describe some activity or action that can take place within the electronic presentation itself and wherein said evaluating comprises at least monitoring data that does not comprise content that can be presented to a viewer and wherein an activity or action can pertain to a character or person in at least one said electronic presentations.

35. (Original) The viewing management method of claim 34 further comprising using the one or more computing devices to send a notification to a viewer in the event that one or more of the electronic presentations satisfies one or more of the viewer-defined preferences.

36. (Original) The viewing management method of claim 34 further comprising automatically displaying an electronic presentation for a viewer in the event that the electronic presentation satisfies one or more of the viewer-defined preferences.

37. (Original) The viewing management method of claim 34, wherein the viewer-defined preferences are defined in terms of specific electronic presentation titles.

38. (Canceled)

39.   (Original) The viewing management method of claim 34, wherein the viewer-defined preferences are defined in terms of topics that can occur in electronic presentations.

40.   (Original) One or more computer-readable media having computer-readable instructions thereon which, when executed by a computer, implement the method of claim 34.

41.   (Currently Amended) An interactive network comprising:

one or more client viewing devices; and

one or more computing devices communicatively linked with the one or more client viewing devices, the computing devices being programmed to:

simultaneously monitor one or more electronic presentations that are concurrently broadcast by at least monitoring data that does not comprise content that can be presented to a viewer; and

automatically send a notification to one or more of the client viewing devices when one or more of the electronic presentations satisfies one or more viewer-defined preference that is defined by a viewer of the one or more client viewing devices, wherein the viewer-defined preferences are defined in terms of events that can occur in electronic presentations, wherein at least some of said events describe some activity or action that can take place within the electronic presentation itself and wherein an activity or action can pertain to a character or person in at least one of said electronic presentations.

42.   (Original) The interactive network of claim 41, wherein the one or more client viewing devices are programmed to automatically display at least an indicia of an electronic presentation that satisfies one or more of the viewer-defined preferences upon receiving a notification from the one or more computing devices.

43.   (Original) The interactive network of claim 42, wherein said indicia comprises a display of the live electronic presentation.

44.   (Currently Amended) A viewing management method for managing viewing of multiple live electronic presentations, comprising:

monitoring viewing habits of one or more viewers of live electronic presentations to determine particular events within the electronic presentations that the viewers are likely to want to view, wherein at least some of said events pertain to some activity or action that can take place within the electronic presentation itself_and wherein an activity or action can pertain to a character or person in at least one of said electronic presentations;

ascertaining from data that does not comprise content that can be presented to a viewer, whether said one or more viewers would likely want to view a particular event; and

notifying one or more viewers when it appears that an event is occurring within an electronic presentation that the viewer is not viewing but would likely want to view.

45.   (Original) The viewing management method of claim 44, wherein said notifying comprises automatically displaying the event for a viewer.

46.   (Original) The viewing management method of claim 44, wherein said notifying comprises automatically displaying indicia of the electronic presentation, but not the electronic presentation for a viewer.

47.   (Original) The viewing management method of claim 44, wherein said notifying comprises automatically displaying the event in a picture-in-picture (PIP) window on a viewer device.

48.   (Original) The viewing management method of claim 44, wherein said monitoring comprises establishing a correlation between the time that a viewer views a particular electronic presentation and the events that transpire during that time.

49.   (Original) The viewing management method of claim 48, wherein said establishing comprises evaluating viewer habits over a plurality of time frames during which the viewer is viewing one or more electronic presentations.

50. (Original) One or more computers programmed with instructions which, when executed by the one or more computers, cause the one or more computers to perform the method of claim 44.

51. (Original) One or more computer-readable media having computer-readable instructions thereon which, when executed by a computer, implement the method of claim 44.

52. (Currently Amended) An interactive network comprising:

one or more client viewing devices; and

one or more computing devices communicatively linked with the one or more client viewing devices, the computing devices being programmed to:

monitor viewing habits of one or more viewers of live electronic presentations to determine particular events within the electronic presentations that the viewers are likely to want to view, wherein at least some of said events pertain to some activity or action that can take place within the electronic presentation itself and wherein an activity or action can pertain to a character or person in at least one of said electronic presentations;

ascertain from data that does not comprise content that can be presented to a viewer, whether said one or more viewers would likely want to view a particular event; and

notify one or more viewers when it appears that an event is occurring within an electronic presentation that the viewer is not viewing but would likely want to view.

53.   (Original) The interactive network of claim 52, wherein at least one of the client viewing devices comprises a television.

54.   (Original) The interactive network of claim 52, wherein at least one of the client viewing devices comprises a computer display.

55.   (Currently Amended) A user interface for use in an interactive entertainment system comprising:

a processor;

an application executing on the processor and configured to present plurality of fields, one of which displaying a number of titles of programs that can be selected by a viewer, another of which displaying indicia that can be selected to define viewer preferences for simultaneously monitoring two or more of the programs that are selected by the viewer, wherein said monitoring comprises monitoring at least data that does not comprise content that can be presented to the viewer and which comprises events that can occur within said two or more programs, wherein at least some of said events describe some activity or action that can take place within the electronic presentation itself and wherein an activity or action can pertain to a character or person in at least one of said electronic presentations; and

an input device operable to enable a user to select a particular electronic presentation for continuous play viewing.

56.   (Original) The user interface of claim 55, wherein said indicia is associated with predefined aspects of the programs.

57.   (Original) The user interface of claim 55, wherein said indicia is associated with viewer-definable aspects of the programs.